The American Library in Paris

Critical Conversations Spring 2022

Human Mobility and National Borders in a Post-Covid World

We're delighted to announce the third season of Critical Conversations, an expert-led discussion series that will allow Library members to delve deeper into pressing topics. We believe open debate is vital to a healthy democracy, and the aim of these series is to foster a sense of community while also promoting civic discourse and engagement. Our hope is that participants will join us to educate and challenge themselves—through reading and dialogue.

The program returns in person on Thursday 14 April* with the issue of the freedom of movement. *Critical Conversations* participants will attend a series of three, ninety-minute sessions, with short readings distributed in advance. Ettore Recchi will begin each meeting with some opening remarks, before guiding a group discussion. The series will be held in person at the Library. Please email Programs Manager Alice McCrum, mccrum@americanlibraryinparis.org with any questions.

*All meetings will begin at 19h CET and run for 90 minutes.

Meeting 1: Here, there and everywhere: does modernity equal mobility?
Thursday 14 April

Until the COVID-19 crisis, international travel and migration had been growing uninterruptedly for decades. What are the sociological roots of this phenomenon? And what about the consequences? Finally, is the trend bound to continue amid rising environmental and health concerns?

Readings:

Deutschmann, E. and Recchi, E. (2019) *Global Human Mobility Rapidly Increasing*, EUI/MPC Blog: https://blogs.eui.eu/migrationpolicycentre/global-human-mobility-rapidly-increasing-new-open-access-dataset-shows/.

Deutschmann, E. and Recchi, E. (2020) *Inequality at the Border: How Visa Costs Penalize Citizens of Poor World Regions*, EUI/MPC Blog: https://blogs.eui.eu/migrationpolicycentre/inequality-border-visa-costs-penalize-citizens-poor-world-regions/

Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9BXARjhs04. This video explains the Henley Passport Index, which ranks citizenships by their power to move internationally.

Meeting 2: Free movement in the EU: a success story?
Thursday 28 April

The freedom to move and settle across 27 different sovereign states is a unique achievement of the European Union. Why and how did this happen? And what are the implications of free movement for the future?

Reading:

Deutschmann, E. and Recchi, E. (2022) Europeanization via Transnational Mobility and Migration, in S. Büttner, M. Eigmüller and S. Worschech (eds) *Sociology of Europeanization*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, pp. 283-308.

Video:

L'Auberge espagnole (2002) by C. Klapisch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCs6AzLeNQI&list=PLsW6n_4f2tjZccXkVvjBRf--Q7iGn_346. This iconic movie portrays the growing interconnection of European youth epitomized by the EU's famous Erasmus grants to study abroad.

Meeting 3. A world without borders: Is it possible?
Thursday 5 May

Against a backdrop of expanding human mobility and aspirations to migrate, the number of walls and the severity of immigration policies is rising globally. Can we imagine a world with open borders? What would be the economic, social, and cultural impact of this apparent utopia?

Reading:

R. Bregman (2016) *Utopia for realists*. The Correspondents, pp. 180-191.

Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMkI7D4YIHo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf-k6qOfXz0. These two speakers argue against the demise of state borders and global free movement from different standpoints

About Ettore Recchi, the 2022 series leader

Ettore Recchi is professor at Sciences Po Paris, where he is the Director of the MA and PhD programs in Sociology. He is also Visiting Fellow of the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the EUI (Florence) and of the Institut Convergences Migrations (Paris). Recchi has published over 120 papers, book chapters, edited volumes, and monographs.

His articles feature in academic journals of sociology (e.g., *European Sociological Review*), political science (e.g., *West European Politics*), European studies (e.g., *Journal of Common Market Studies*), migration studies (e.g., *International Migration Review*), geography (e.g., *Political Geography*), global studies (e.g., *Global Networks*) and data science (e.g., *EPJ Data Science*). His last book is *Everyday Europe: Social Transnationalism in an Unsettled Continent* (Policy Press, 2019), a co-authored work on European integration 'from below.' He has directed several national and international projects on free movement, transnationalism, migration and mobilities. In 2020-2021, Recchi coordinated two research projects on Covid: at Sciences Po, *Coping with Covid (CoCo)* on the impact of the pandemic on social life in France; at EUI, *The Airport Factor* on the effect of air travels on the spread of the disease globally.